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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 OMB-01 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 /079 W
---------- 059778
R 221336Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2566
INFO CNO WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1282

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: PROPOSED US/KUWAIT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

REF: A. STATE 057528; B. KUWAIT 1267

1. I TELEPHONED GOK MINISTER DEFENSE AND INTERIOR SHAIKH SAAD MARCH 22 AND SAID WE NEEDED TO KNOW HIS REACTION TO PROPOSED USG/GOK EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE (REFTEL A). MINDEF SAID HE HAD READ NOTE BUT COULD NOT DISCUSS MATTER OVER PHONE. I EXPLAINED I CONFINED TO BED FOR SOME DAYS MORE AND SUGGESTED THAT DCM AND USLOK CHIEF MEET WITH HIM. SHAIKH SAAD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD URGENCY OF SUBJECT BUT NEVERTHELESS PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL I WAS UP AND ABLE TO VISIT HIM AT HIS OFFICE.

2. I ASKED SHAIKH SAAD WHETHER HE HAD PROBLEMS WITH OUR PROPOSED LANGUAGE. HE SAID HE DID NOT. HOWEVER, I SUSPECT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER OR, PERHAPS, CROWN PRINCE MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS CONCERNING A PUBLIC AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESENTED TO AND DEBATED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. (BRITISH HAD THIS PROBLEM AND STILL OPERATE THEIR MILITARY ASSISTANCE
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PROGRAM HERE WITHOUT A FORMAL AGREEMENT.)

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3. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SEE SHAIKH SAAD BY APRIL 1 OR SO.
MEANWHILE, WHILE WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT GOK'S PROBLEM IS WITH
EXCHANGE OF NOTES, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSALS WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG IF PROPOSED EXCHANGE
PROVES NOT FEASIBLE. I DON'T NEED DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS,
BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW POSSIBLE OPTIONS; E.G., COULD ASSISTANCE
BE EXTENDED ENTIRELY THROUGH FMS CASES WITHOUT FORMAL AGREMENT
RE STATUS OF PERSONNEL?
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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05 JUL 2006

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